

URBAN DISTRICT OF TETTENHALL

ANNUAL REPORT

of the

Medical Officer of Health

For 1949.


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**PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS OF THE LOCAL
AUTHORITY.**

Medical Officer of Health:

F. B. MACKENZIE, D.S.O., M.C., M.A., M.B., CH.B., D.P.H.

Sanitary Inspector:

E. BARNES, M.S.I.A.

Clerical:

Miss J. E. WITHERS. (Part-time).

STATISTICAL SUMMARY, 1949.

Area: 2,503 acres.

Population: 7,791 (estimated mid-year 1949): 5,967 (census 1931).

Number of inhabited houses: 2,441.

Sum represented by a penny rate: £216.

Rateable Value: £54,433.

General Rate: 15/-.

Birth Rate: 17.0.

Death Rate: 11.5.

Infantile Death Rate per 1,000 births: 30.0.

Total Deaths from Diarrhoea: Nil.

Deaths from Pulmonary Tuberculosis: 2.

Deaths from other Tuberculous Diseases: Nil.

Tuberculosis Death Rate—Pulmonary: 0.25.

Tuberculosis Death Rate—Non-Pulmonary: Nil.

THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH'S REPORT FOR 1949.

To the Chairman and Members of Tettenhall Urban District Council.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present to you my Annual Report for the year 1949, and do so in accordance with the requirements of the Ministry of Health as indicated in Circular 2/50. I incorporate information in respect of work carried out by your Sanitary Inspector in the course of the year.

Legislation as affecting the public health tends to become so much more embracing and accumulative that a most intimate knowledge of enactments and procedure is required of your Public Health Officers.

Such new legislation introduced during the year were the Housing Act, 1949, and the new Milk and Dairies Regulations which became operative on 1st October. The main effect of those regulations will be to ensure, eventually, a safer and cleaner milk supply by the compulsory sale of only Tuberculin Tested or Pasteurised Milk.

Vital statistics as affecting your Urban District and comparative figures for preceding years are given in succeeding pages of my report.

The Birth Rate for the year shows a decrease on last year, being 17.0 as against 18.2, but it is higher than the rate of England and Wales 16.7, which latter rate is also a decrease on 1948 when it was 17.9.

The crude Death Rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population was 11.5. This is an increase on last year when it was 10.1. The Death Rate for the country (England and Wales) was 11.7 which latter rate is also an increase on 1948 when it was 10.8.

“As a means of determining the comparative healthiness of districts crude or recorded death rates are all, correctly speaking, valueless. No two districts are exactly alike as regards the composition of their respective populations; in one, males may make up the bulk of the population, in another females: in one there may be a large number of young healthy adults, and in the other a preponderance of very young or very old persons.”

(Robertson & Porter).

With this in mind the Registrar-General has this year re-introduced for each local area what is known as a "Comparability Factor" (0.87 in the case of Tettenhall) by which a corrected or standardised death rate for the district may be arrived at.

"The factor may be said to represent the population handicap to be applied to the area and, when multiplied by the crude death rate experienced in the area, modifies the latter so as to make it comparable with the crude death rate for the country as a whole or with the mortality of any other local area, the crude death rate of which having been similarly modified with its own factor for the purpose." (Registrar-General).

The standardised Death Rate of the Tettenhall Urban District is therefore 11.5×0.87 which gives 10.0 and is the death rate which would have occurred had the age and sex distribution of the district been the same as that of the country as a whole.

Out of a total of 90 deaths, 68 occurred above sixty years of age and placing those in age groups we find the following distribution:—

60 to 70 years ...	...	...	16
70 to 80 years ...	...	...	29
80 to 90 years ...	...	...	17
90 and over ...	...	...	6

The infantile mortality rate was 30.0 per 1,000 live births, the figure for England and Wales being 32, a further new record for the country.

There were no maternal deaths.

The number of cases of Pulmonary Tuberculosis notified was 6 as against 4 last year and the number of deaths was 2 as against 1 last year, giving a death rate of 0.25. The rate for England and Wales was 0.45.

Deaths from Cancer numbered 16 as against 9 last year.

In respect of notifiable infectious disease there was a marked increase in the incidence of Measles, 122 cases as against 30 last year. This is in keeping with the biennial trend of this disease. Whooping Cough also maintained a heavy incidence. Scarlet Fever, although a very mild type, also continued to prevail. I thank the local practitioners for their co-operation in giving notification of infectious diseases.

Throughout the year your Health Committee has been extremely alert as to the sanitary conditions of the district, especially in respect of housing and the handling of food.

The presence of squatters on an old hutment site vacated by the R.A.F., to the number of 27 adults and 9 children, mainly of Polish, Ukranian and Latvian nationality, employed in factories or steel works in Wolverhampton or Bilston area, gave concern as to sanitation and water supply as the buildings and facilities were most unsuitable for permanent occupation by families. Fortunately they were a good type of people and were co-operative in trying to fulfil the requirements of your Sanitary Inspector in respect of sanitation. It is hoped that suitable accommodation will be found for them by a neighbouring Authority in the near future.

The abolition of the objectionable waste-water closet still existent in quite a number of houses in the district and conversion to up-to-date flushing is desirable and the contribution towards the cost of conversion which your Council is prepared to make, it is hoped will give some impetus in this direction.

With a view to encouraging and securing hygiene in the storage, distribution and sale of food a printed pamphlet, making recommendations, was issued to local food purveyors. Steps to ensure the supply of wholesome and clean ice-cream have been given special consideration and retailers in the district have been advised that it would be preferable that ice-cream sold be of the pre-packed type.

The observations on the housing situation which I made in my report of last year may still be accepted as more or less the same, viz:—

- (a) A house, here and there, in such a state as to be unfit for further inhabitation, but in the aggregate a fair number.
- (b) A group of houses, here and there, much below modern standards for human habitation, with structures weakened or with such defects as not to be worth the cost of repairing or reconditioning.

There are no big blocks of houses to be condemned but just this patchy incidence.

The Council is to be commended on the site at Tettenhall Wood which they have selected for their next housing estate. On completion this estate will carry 250 houses.

During the year only 2 of those houses have been completed and occupied. This is accounted for by the fact that the greater part of the year was spent in preparation of the new site, levelling, drainage, roads, etc., but the progress made in actual house construction, although not ready for occupation this year, has been considerable and will ensure that, during the coming year, there will be a considerable augmentation in the number of new Council houses ready for occupation. (At date of this report 56 of the houses have been completed).

The subjects on which I have commented briefly are dealt with more fully in the appropriate sections of the report which come within the province of your Sanitary Inspector and I take this opportunity to commend him for his work throughout the year and to thank him for his personal assistance in recording statistical information.

Staffs. 20 (Tettenhall) Detachment of the British Red Cross Society still continue to give their valuable domiciliary services to the community and the appreciation of your Council has been extended to them.

The County Welfare Officer, Mr. Cox, has also given valuable help in making arrangements for the appropriate care of aged and infirm persons and has been of great assistance to me personally in dealing with such cases. It was not found necessary to exercise powers under Section 47 of the National Assistance Act.

Again I wish to express my appreciation of the help and support given me by the Chairman and Members of the Health and Housing Committees.

The co-operation of the private practitioners is much appreciated and the willing and helpful assistance given me by your Clerk and other officers and members of the staff of the Council is gratefully acknowledged.

I have the honour to be,

Your obedient Servant,

F. B. MACKENZIE,

Medical Officer of Health.

October, 1950.

VITAL STATISTICS.

			Total.	M.	F.		
Live Births	{	Legitimate	129	81	48	{	Birth Rate (per 1,000 population) 17.0.
		Illegitimate	4	2	2		
Still Births	{	Legitimate	3	2	1	{	Rate (per 1,000 total births) 22.5.
		Illegitimate	—	—	—		
Deaths	...	...	90				Rate (per 1,000 population) 11.5.

Deaths from Puerperal Causes: Nil.

Death Rate of Infants under 1 year of age (per 1,000 live births):

Legitimate	...	30.0
Illegitimate	...	0.0

Deaths from Cancer: 16.

„ „ Measles (all ages): Nil.

„ „ Whooping Cough (all ages): Nil.

„ „ Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age): Nil.

BIRTH RATES.

Year	TETTENHALL.		England and Wales. Birth Rate.
	No. of Births.	Birth Rate.	
1940	112	16.2	14.6
1941	112	15.3	14.2
1942	118	17.0	15.8
1943	131	19.2	16.5
1944	135	19.7	17.6
1945	124	18.3	16.1
1946	122	17.3	19.1
1947	162	22.6	20.5
1948	136	18.2	17.9
1949	133	17.0	16.7

DEATH RATES.

Year	TETTENHALL.		England and Wales. Death Rate.
	No. of Deaths.	Death Rate.	
1940	87	12.6	14.3
1941	89	12.2	12.9
1942	71	10.2	11.6
1943	76	11.2	12.1
1944	67	9.8	11.6
1945	71	10.5	11.4
1946	101	14.3	11.5
1947	92	12.8	12.0
1948	76	10.1	10.8
1949	90	11.5	11.7

CAUSES OF DEATH DURING YEAR 1949.

Causes of Death.						M.	F.
1	Typhoid and Paratyphoid Fevers	...	...	...	...	—	—
2	Cerebro-spinal Fever	...	...	...	...	—	—
3	Scarlet Fever	...	...	...	...	—	—
4	Whooping Cough	...	...	...	...	—	—
5	Diphtheria	...	...	...	...	—	—
6	Tuberculosis of respiratory system	...	...	...	...	1	1
7	Other forms of Tuberculosis	...	...	...	...	—	—
8	Syphilitic Diseases	...	...	...	...	—	—
9	Influenza	...	...	...	...	—	—
10	Measles	...	...	...	...	—	—
11	Acute Poliomyelitis and Polioencephalitis	...	...	...	...	—	—
12	Acute Inf. Encephalitis	...	...	...	...	—	—
13	Cancer of Buccal Cavity and Oesophagus and Uterus	...	...	...	...	1	1
14	Cancer of Stomach and Duodenum	...	...	...	...	—	1
15	Cancer of Breast	...	...	...	...	—	2
16	Cancer of all other sites	...	...	...	...	1	10
17	Diabetes	...	...	...	...	—	1
18	Intra-Cranial Vascular Lesions	...	...	...	...	1	5
19	Heart Disease	...	...	...	...	16	12
20	Other Diseases of Circulatory System	...	...	...	...	4	0
21	Bronchitis	...	...	...	...	1	1
22	Pneumonia	...	...	...	...	2	2
23	Other Respiratory Diseases	...	...	...	...	—	—
24	Ulcer of Stomach or Duodenum	...	...	...	...	4	1
25	Diarrhoea (under 2 years)	...	...	...	...	—	—
26	Appendicitis	...	...	...	...	—	—
27	Other Digestive Diseases	...	...	...	...	—	1
28	Nephritis	...	...	...	...	—	1
29	Puerperal and Post-Abortion Sepsis	...	...	...	...	—	—
30	Other Maternal Causes	...	...	...	...	—	—
31	Premature Birth	...	...	...	...	1	1
32	Congenital Malformation, Birth Injuries and Infantile Disease	...	...	...	...	—	2
33	Suicide	...	...	...	...	2	1
34	Road Traffic Accidents	...	...	...	...	1	—
35	Other Violent Causes	...	...	...	...	—	1
36	All Other Causes	...	...	...	...	4	7
						39	51
Deaths of Infants under 1 year—Total						1	3
Legitimate						1	3
Illegitimate						—	—

INFANTILE MORTALITY, 1949.

Nett Deaths from causes stated at various ages under one year of age.

Cause of Death.	Under one week.	1 to 2 weeks.	2 to 3 weeks.	3 to 4 weeks.	Total under one month.	1 to 3 months.	3 to 6 months.	6 to 9 months.	9 to 12 months.	Total Deaths under one year.
Prematurity ...	2	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	2
Defect of Heart	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1
Anencephalic .	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1
Totals ...	4	—	—	—	4	—	—	—	—	4

INFANTILE MORTALITY RATES.

Year	TETTENHALL			England and Wales.
	Births	Deaths	Rate per 1,000 births	Rate per 1,000 births
1940	112	5	44.6	55
1941	112	4	34.0	59
1942	118	2	17.0	49
1943	131	4	30.5	49
1944	135	2	14.8	46
1945	124	4	32.2	46
1946	122	6	49.1	43
1947	162	5	30.8	41
1948	136	1	7.4	34
1949	133	4	30.0	32

GENERAL PROVISIONS OF HEALTH SERVICES IN THE AREA.

The Medical Officer of Health is one of the County Assistant Medical Officers of Health, who is posted for part-time duty with your local Urban District Council.

The Sanitary Inspector is a full-time officer, and a fully qualified Meat and Foods Inspector.

The Health Visitor is under the direction of the Local Health Authority.

In accordance with Part III. of the new National Health Service Act, Health Services are provided by the Local Health Authority, namely, the County Council, the organisation and administration being in the hands of the County Medical Officer of Health.

The Health Services which Part III. of the Act requires to be provided are:—

- (a) Health Centres.
- (b) Care of Mothers and young children.
- (c) Midwifery.
- (d) Health Visiting.
- (e) Home Nursing.
- (f) Vaccination and Immunisation.
- (g) Ambulance Service.
- (h) Prevention of illness, care and after care.
- (i) Domestic Help.

With the exception of the provision of Health Centres, all the required services are being provided in your area.

As regards the General Hospital and Specialist Services, their administration is vested in the Birmingham Regional Hospital Board.

The Hospitals and Departments available, and easily accessible to your Area, are those of Wolverhampton, Dudley and Birmingham.

Infectious Diseases.

The Infectious Diseases Hospitals are under the control of the Birmingham Regional Hospital Board.

Ambulance Facilities.

(a) **Infectious Diseases.** The Ambulance Service is provided by the Birmingham Regional Hospital Board.

(b) **Non-Infectious Diseases.** The Staffordshire County Council provide an ambulance which is stationed at Tettenhall during the day. After 8 p.m. the Brierley Hill Ambulance serves the district.

Tuberculosis.

Dispensaries are situated at Wolverhampton and Dudley and various Sanatoria are available.

Maternity Cases are provided for by

- (a) Rosemary Ednam Maternity Home.
- (b) Wordsley Hospital.

Laboratory Facilities.

Pathological and Bacteriological examinations and analyses are made by the Public Health Laboratory Service.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.**Water Supply.**

Tettenhall Urban District is within the statutory limits of the Wolverhampton Corporation Water Underaking.

I am indebted to Mr. B. L. McMillan, B.Sc., M.Inst.C.E., M.Inst.W.E., Water Engineer, for the following information:—

- (i) The water supply in your area has been satisfactory both (a) in quality and (b) in quantity.
- (ii) The following is a summary of the Bacteriological examination of water going into distribution.

Number of Samples.

Containing presumptive B. Coli-aerogenes per 100 m.l.

Total Taken	Nil organisms	1 to 2 organisms	3 to 10 organisms	Over 10 organisms
715	674	30	8	3

In addition to the above, 190 bacteriological analyses were made of water before or during course of treatment at Works.

Chemical analyses were also made of the water supply and results were satisfactory.

- (iii) The water supplied by the Wolverhampton Corporation Water Undertaking does not have a plumbo-solvent action.
- (iv) Subsequent to treatment at the Works where necessary there have been no known contamination of the water going into supply.
- (v) Of the houses in the district 2,427 obtain their water direct from the mains, 11 from standpipes and only three houses have a well supply.

The population supplied from mains within the district is 7,782.

The three houses within the district having only a well supply are in isolated outlying positions and considerable distance from main supplies.

Samples of these shallow well supplies were taken by your Sanitary Inspector and submitted to the Public Health Laboratory at Stafford for bacteriological examination. Only one of these supplies proved to be reasonably satisfactory. Improvements were made to each of the other two wells and subsequent samples taken showed that a little improvement had been made and the contamination reduced. The householders in each case were advised to boil all drinking water.

Sewerage and Sewage Disposal.

I am indebted to your Surveyor, Mr. J. W. Mason, M.I.Mun.E., M.T.P.I., for the following report:—

Blackbrook Sewage Farm

“The farm has been maintained in good condition during the past year. Samples of water from the Black Brook have been submitted regularly to the County Analyst for reports, which have been presented to the monthly meeting of the Highways and Drainage Committee.

During the year Messrs. Willcox, Raikes & Marshall took readings of the flow of sewerage at the sewage farm to acquire data for the preparation of a scheme for the modernisation of the treatment of the sewerage.”

Public Cleansing.

“Regular collection of house refuse has been maintained throughout the district.

The tip at Compton has been maintained in a satisfactory condition.”

The provision of dustbins by landlords is a general and accepted practice within the district. Recent Court cases throughout the country have, however, in certain instances, placed the onus for provision on the occupiers of houses. This reversal of general practice has tended to cause a stiffening in the attitude of owners against providing bins and house tenants are very loath to accept this change.

Sanitary Accommodation.

The undermentioned figures give a summary of the various types of sanitary conveniences other than modern type water closets which were in use at the end of 1949.

Waste Water Closets	...	...	108
Privies or Pail Closets	...	...	8
Cesspools	...	...	50
Ashpits	...	...	—

During the year all the owners of houses with waste water closets were circularised requesting them to convert to modern type water closets. As a result 43 waste water closets were converted. The Council gave financial assistance towards the cost of conversion.

Atmospheric Pollution.

Pollution of the atmosphere from within the district is due mainly to the smoke discharge from domestic grates burning bituminous fuels. This type of pollution is most apparent in the winter months and when accompanied by the smoke drift from adjoining areas can be a considerable contributory factor to the higher incidence of respiratory diseases. It is becoming generally recognised that pure air is as vitally necessary as a pure water and clean food supply.

The present trend is to develop smokeless zones and a useful application of this ideal could be adopted within the area of the Council's existing prefabricated housing scheme at Henwood Road where it could be reasonably made a condition of tenancy that only smokeless fuels be used. This policy of introducing only smokeless fuel heating could be similarly extended to the Council's new housing schemes and is to be encouraged with a view to reducing the smoke sprawl of urban development and so preserve architectural features and minimise defacing and discolouration caused by smoke pollution.

HOUSING.

During the year under review it has not been possible to make any major progress towards the clearance of any of the larger groups of sub-standard houses. The Health Committee, acting for the Council under delegated powers, have continued to deal with the very worst of the individual unfit houses under Section II. of the Housing Act, 1936. These premises have in addition to the usual unsatisfactory conditions had some structural weaknesses or have been so small and badly sited that it was unreasonable to ask for re-conditioning.

The number of houses on which Demolition Orders became operative during the year was 13.

Official undertakings to re-condition were also approved in respect of five houses.

Two other houses were voluntarily re-conditioned in anticipation of formal action.

With the co-operation of the Housing Committee it has been possible during the year to re-house some of the tenants from houses where Demolition Orders were operative.

Overcrowding and urgent cases on medical grounds were brought to the notice of the Housing Committee with a recommendation for re-housing.

The number of notices served for repairs and improvements to houses under the Public Health Act was as follows:—

INFORMAL		STATUTORY	
No. of Houses	No. of Defects	No. of Houses	No. of Defects
47	76	13	25

The inspection of all houses for improvement and repairs is in the main carried out on the request or complaint of tenants. While some of the householders in the older property make very genuine complaints about defects, the ulterior motive in several instances is securing of the tenancy of a council house. As it is the general policy at the moment in view of housing shortage that demolition should be delayed as far as possible it is very difficult in some instances to justify asking for the remedying of less serious defects knowing full well that these premises will be the subject of early demolition procedure when circumstances permit.

The only premises not inspected by your Sanitary Inspector are the properties controlled by the Council. These are under the control of the Housing Manager.

During the year the Housing Act, 1949, came into operation. This new Act is a further development in the national housing campaign. The provision in the Act for the betterment of existing houses allows for "Improvement Grant" by the Exchequer to Local Authorities and through them to private owners. These grants will be applicable to all houses rural or urban subject to certain conditions. They are briefly as follows:—

- (a) The work done must provide satisfactory housing accommodation for not less than 30 years.
- (b) The work must conform to the Ministry of Health standards.
- (c) The cost of any re-conditioning work must be not less than £100 nor in normal circumstances exceed £600.
- (d) The grant will not exceed one-half of the cost of the work.
- (e) The house must be kept in good repair.

The requirements which the Minister has specified for a dwelling to which assistance can be given under the Act are as follows:—

- (i) The dwelling must in all respects be dry.
- (ii) Be in a good state of repair.
- (iii) Have each room properly lighted and ventilated.
- (iv) Have an adequate supply of wholesome water laid on for all purposes inside the dwelling.
- (v) Be provided with efficient and adequate means of supplying hot water for domestic purposes.
- (vi) Have an internal or otherwise readily accessible water closet.
- (vii) Have a fixed bath, preferably in a separate room.
- (viii) Be provided with a sink or sinks with suitable arrangements for the disposal of waste water.
- (ix) Be provided with facilities for domestic washing, including a copper, preferably in a separate room.
- (x) Have a proper drainage system.
- (xi) Be provided with adequate points for artificial lighting in each room.
- (xii) Be provided with adequate facilities for heating each habitable room.
- (xiii) Have satisfactory facilities for preparing and cooking food.
- (xiv) Have a well-ventilated larder or food store.
- (xv) Have proper provision for the storage of fuel.
- (xvi) Have a satisfactorily surfaced path to outbuildings and convenient access from a street to the back door.

This new Act indicates an amended policy and attitude with respect to housing maintenance and shows the need for saving suitable well-constructed houses of good size from deterioration through lack of financial assistance.

For this purpose I would ask that as soon as circumstances permit a survey of the district be made with a view to determining and classifying the life of all the houses within your area in the following categories:—

- (a) Houses for immediate or early demolition.
- (b) Houses for demolition within 5—15 years.
- (c) Houses with a life of 15—30 years.
- (d) All houses which could be reasonably re-conditioned under this new Act.

Into this survey I would like to incorporate other information which would help to give a better picture of the housing needs of the district, such as the degree of incompatibility between the legal and accepted bedroom standards of occupancy in relation to overcrowding. Information as to the number of old and incapacitated people who might come within the ambit of the National Assistance Act for proper care and attention might also be revealed.

Perton Aerodrome.

As stated in the opening remarks of my Report, occupation by squatters of some derelict buildings on the verge of Perton Aerodrome, just within your area, occurred. The possibility of providing the premises with basic services was considered but approval was withheld by the Ministry of Health owing to the very high cost. However, it has been agreed to re-house eventually those families within the Seisdon Rural District in the Wrottesley area. It was possible by arrangement with various Government Departments to prevent the further occupation of other huts, by their demolition.

HOUSE BUILDING PROGRESS.

Your Surveyor has furnished me with the following information:—

Woodhouse Estate.

Building works were commenced on 16th February, 1949, and the first pair of houses were officially opened by the Principal Housing Officer of the Ministry of Health on the 16th November, 1949.

The following schedule indicates the general housing progress in the district during 1949. Comparative figures are given for 1948.

Council Housing:—			1949.	1948.
One bedroom houses	...	...	—	10
Three bedroom houses	...	...	2	53
Four bedroom houses	...	...	—	6
Private Enterprise Housing:—				
New Houses	...	...	6	14
Conversion—large houses into flats			2	14
			—	—
			10	97
			—	—

The small number of Council Houses completed during the year was due to the fact that the building operations were not at full production on the Woodhouse Estate until about the middle of the year.

During the post-war period a total of 231 dwellings have been provided in the following categories:—

Local Authority Permanent Houses	...	...	127
Temporary Houses	...	...	36
Houses by private enterprise	...	...	35
Conversion and adaptations	...	...	32
Re-building war-damaged houses	...	...	1
Total			<hr/> 231 <hr/>

Your Housing Manager, Mr. W. A. Nicholls, reports as follows:—

A review of the Council's waiting list for houses, to ascertain the actual number of "live" applicants, was carried out at the request of the Ministry of Health at the beginning of the year. The effect of this was to reduce the number of applicants from 713 to 380.

The Council's first programme of building had been completed at the end of 1948 and all the houses occupied. The development work on the Woodhouse Estate has been in progress throughout the year, but it has only been possible to complete and let 2 houses during the year under review.

Routine inspection of properties under the Council's control have revealed that, on the whole, the standard of cleanliness is very good. In only two or three cases has it been found necessary to request tenants to improve conditions.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

Activities under this heading are of course essentially those of your Sanitary Inspector, and I am indebted to him for detail and figures given in relation to safeguarding the health of the community.

Meat and Other Foods.

No slaughtering of animals has been carried out in the district, all the meat being brought into the area from the Wolverhampton Abattoir. The only exception to this is the killing of pigs for private consumption under licence from the Ministry of Food.

Food Poisoning.

No outbreaks of food poisoning occurred during the year.

Food Inspection and Hygiene.

The inspection of all food is carried out at shops and food-preparing premises.

The following articles were condemned after voluntary surrender:—

8 lbs. bacon.
4 stone of fish.
1 tin of tomatoes.
1 tin veal loaf.

During the year particular attention has been paid to the improvement of food premises and the hygiene of places where food stuffs are handled. At the beginning of the year a pamphlet was prepared with the approval of the Public Health Committee and was distributed to all persons engaged in the handling or distribution of food. The pamphlet which was favourably received and obtained very good press support was in three parts—

- (a) giving legal requirements under the various Acts,
- (b) a list of the undesirable and objectionable practices found within the district,
- (c) recommendations to prevent contamination.

This was followed by a general inspection of all premises to implement the circular.

Improvements were carried out at four shop premises following informal notice. Informal action also resulted in the cleansing of eight premises.

The main difficulties of enforcing a good standard are usually to be found in combined house and shop premises where shop and domiciliary activities are bound up together. Such premises are usually small and lack storage space and readily accessible facilities. It is also disappointing when facilities are available to find that they are not used to full advantage. This applies particularly to the use of hot water for the washing of utensils.

All the licensed premises within your district were also inspected, particularly with regard to the washing facilities, condition of beer pipes and other sanitary arrangements. Notices were served and complied with in respect of 11 premises. In order to support the requirements of these notices it was found necessary in two instances to take samples of beer from pumps which were connected to the barrels with lead pipes, and it was successfully proved on chemical analysis that the lead content was in excess of the safety figure.

As suitability of premises is so closely bound up with the implementation of those bye-laws and with the Food and Drugs Act legislation it would be desirable that your Sanitary Inspector be acquainted with plans affecting alterations of existing shop premises, or erection of new shop premises, and thus have the opportunity of giving his opinion and making any suggestions thereon, as it is upon him the duty of inspecting such premises as to their suitability ultimately falls, and of serving notice for remedy of any defect which might exist.

Slaughter of Animals Act, 1933.

There were five slaughterman's licences in force at the 31st December, 1949.

Bacteriological Examination of Food.

This work is carried out by the Public Health Laboratory Service at Stafford.

Ice-Cream.

During the past year three premises were registered for the purposes of retailing ice-cream, making in all a total of 12 shops from which this commodity can be obtained.

There is only one registered manufacturer within the district. The greater proportion of ice-cream is manufactured outside the area.

49 samples were submitted to the County Bacteriological Laboratory for examination—77% of these came within grades 1 and 2.

Close vigilance and liaison is maintained between Local Authorities and manufacturers when a sample is low graded, and considerable improvement has been effected in the supplies during the year.

By encouraging retailers to retail only pre-packed ice-cream it has been possible to minimise the handling in shops which appears to be a major factor in contamination.

MILK AND DAIRIES.

During the year a new dairyman took over the retail business of a producer and he has equipped and modernised an old building for the purposes of his trade. This has proved to be very satisfactory.

There are now two registered dairies and 3 producer retailers in the district. The major portion of milk is retailed by dairies outside your area.

There are nine dairy farms within the district with one Accredited producer. The old sheds at one farm were completely modernised and brought into line with modern standards and practice.

A total of 143 inspections were carried out on premises from which milk is produced or retailed and the general standard and conditions have been satisfactory.

On the first of October, the Milk and Dairies Regulations, 1949, the Milk (Special Designations) Act, 1949, the Milk (Special Designations) (Raw Milk) Regulations, 1949, and the Milk (Special Designations) (Pasteurised and Sterilized Milk) Regulations, 1949, came into operation.

Under these various regulations the Minister of Agriculture and Fisheries became responsible for the control of all dairy farms in respect of production, including registration and supervision, while Local Authorities retain similar power for the control of the retail distribution and treatment of milk outside of dairy farms. The Local Authority also retains the provisions relating to the control of supplies of milks which are suspect of communication of disease to man.

With the coming into force of these new Orders a new Register had to be prepared of all milk premises and distributors affected. The following table gives a summary of the licences issued at the end of 1949.

Designation.	Supplementary Licences.	Dealer.	Total.
Tuberculin Tested ...	6	2	8
Pasteurised	6	2	8
Sterilized	5	12	17

No contraventions of the Orders were found.

FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, 1938.

I am indebted to the County Medical Officer of Health for the following information regarding samples of food taken in Tettenhall.

Details of Samples of Milk and General Foods taken during 1949.

Article of Food.	Number of Samples.	Satisfactory	Unsatisfactory
Milk	37	37	—
General Foods ...	30	28	2

The adulterated samples were an informal sample and a formal sample of blackcurrant jam from the same source. It was deficient of its proper proportion of fruit and proceedings were taken against the manufacturers. As a result, a fine of £20 was imposed, together with £2 1s. 0d. special costs.

STREET MILKS.

Samples taken in Tettenhall Urban District during 1949 for Bacteriological and Biological Examinations.

Designation.	No. Samples Submitted.	No. Biological Tests.	Cleanliness.		Phosphatase		Phenol Phtalein.		Turbidity		Containing Tubercle Bacilli.
			Pass.	Fail.	P.	F.	P.	F.	P.	F.	
Tuberculin Tested .	3	1	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
T.T. (Past) .	6	—	6	—	6	—	6	—	—	—	—
Pasteurised .	8	—	8	—	7	1	7	1	—	—	—
Sterilized .	7	—	3	—	—	—	—	—	7	—	—
Undesignated	30	17	24	6	—	—	—	—	—	—	2

Total Samples Submitted—54. Number Submitted to Biological Test—18.
Number Positive—2.

PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES.

The total number of notified cases of infectious diseases was 205 as against 110 last year, exclusive of Tuberculosis.

Measles.

122 cases were notified as against 30 last year. None were admitted to hospital and there were no deaths.

Scarlet Fever.

15 cases were notified as against 18 last year. On account of adequate isolation facilities at home eight were admitted to hospital. There were no deaths.

Whooping Cough.

There were 48 cases notified during this year. This was a decrease of six on the number notified last year. One case was admitted to hospital. There were no deaths.

Diphtheria.

There were two cases notified.

Erysipelas.

Two cases were notified during the year.

Anterior Poliomyelitis.

There were no cases of this disease.

Acute Pneumonia.

Sixteen cases were notified.

**AGE GROUPS OF INFECTIOUS CASES (EXCLUDING
TUBERCULOSIS) NOTIFIED IN 1949.**

Disease	At all ages		Under 1 yr.	1 to 2 yrs.	2 to 3 yrs.	3 to 4 yrs.	4 to 5 yrs.	5 to 10 yrs.	10 to 15 yrs.	15 to 25 yrs.	25 to 45 yrs.	45 to 65 yrs.	65 yrs. and over
	M	F											
Scarlet Fever ...	10	5	—	—	—	1	2	10	2	—	—	—	—
Whooping Cough	25	23	6	5	9	6	8	11	—	—	2	1	—
Measles ...	62	60	1	12	20	14	18	52	3	—	2	—	—
Diphtheria ...	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—
Ac. Pneumonia	9	7	1	—	—	—	—	2	2	—	6	3	2
Erysipelas ...	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2
Typhoid Fever ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Puerperal Pyrexia	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Ant. Poliomyelitis	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
TOTAL	108	97	8	17	29	21	28	75	7		12	4	4

Scabies.

There were no cases brought to notice.

The prevalence of this disease would appear to be very slight and necessitates the provision of no special cleansing facilities, all cases being effectively dealt with privately.

Swabs and Specimens.

Submitted to the Public Health Laboratory Service by local practitioners and myself.

Nose and Throat ... 58

General Measures.

School notifications of Infectious Diseases are carefully scrutinised and prompt use made of them for the purpose of guidance and localisation.

A close study is also made of the Ministry's Weekly Record of Infectious Disease for any information that may be relative to the district.

The Schools are disinfected when considered desirable.

Terminal disinfection of premises and articles which have been exposed to infection is carried out in all cases of diphtheria, scarlet fever, tuberculosis, cancer and other cases of long-standing disease. Disinfection is by means of formaldehyde and disinfectant fluid.

Diphtheria Immunisation.

Immunisation has been carried out actively in the area throughout the year. Statistical information is held at the office of the Area Medical Officer.

Tuberculosis.

The number of new cases notified during the year was 6 pulmonary and no non-pulmonary as against 4 pulmonary and 1 non-pulmonary in 1948.

Age Periods.	New Cases.				Deaths.			
	Pulmonary.		Non-Pulmonary.		Pulmonary.		Non-Pulmonary.	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
Under 1 yr.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1 to 4 yrs.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5 to 9 yrs.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
10 to 14 yrs.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
15 to 19 yrs.	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
20 to 24 yrs.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
25 to 34 yrs.	1	2	—	—	—	—	—	—
35 to 44 yrs.	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
45 to 54 yrs.	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
55 to 64 yrs.	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—
65 yrs. and over	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Totals	2	4	—	—	1	1	—	—

Yearly Figures for the Last Decade.

Year.	New Cases.		Deaths.	
	Pulmonary.	Non-Pulmonary.	Pulmonary.	Non-Pulmonary.
1940	2	5	4	1
1941	3	1	2	1
1942	6	—	3	—
1943	2	—	1	—
1944	2	—	2	—
1945	5	4	4	1
1946	3	2	2	1
1947	3	—	2	—
1948	4	1	1	—
1949	6	—	2	—

GENERAL SANITARY INSPECTION WORK.**Factories Act, 1937.**

Inspections for purposes of provisions as to Health.

Premises	No. in District	Inspections	Written Notices	Prosecutions
Factories in which Secs. 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities (Workshops).	19	41	Nil	Nil
Factories in which Sec. 7 is enforced by Local Authorities (Factories with Mechanical Power).	15	39	2	Nil
Total	34	80	2	Nil

Defects Found.

Particulars	Found	Remedied
San. Conveniences Insuff.	2	1

Rodent Control.

During the year regular treatment of Council property was effected. The Council's tip at Compton has been treated on six occasions with an estimated kill of 530 rats. Both gas and poison treatments were used.

Blackbrook Sewage Farm received treatment also with gas and poison.

At the request of the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries a 10% test of the sewers was completed. This gave a negative result.

40 private premises were treated with an estimated kill of 170 rats.

The main infestation at domestic premises occurred in and around gardens where fowls and pigs are housed, owing to the failure of householders to keep supplies down to a minimum.

Shops Acts, 1912-1938.

At the end of the year there were 89 shops in the area. This was an increase of 2 on the year ending March, 1949, and included seven retail purveyors from vans, carts, etc. Not included are the numerous firms from adjoining districts who deliver goods within the Tettenhall area from motor vehicles.

There are also within the district 17 licensed premises, three off-licence shops and one shop with a wine and spirits licence.

During the year regular inspection was made of records, registers, and premises in accordance with the provisions of the Acts.

A total of 187 visits were made.

The extension of hours of closing just prior to Xmas was notified in the press in conjunction with adjoining Authorities.

No contraventions of the Shops Acts were found during the year.

No difficulty was experienced in enforcing the requirements of the Young Persons Employment Act, 1938, as the closing hours in force at most shops within the district are within the statutory limits.

SUMMARY OF ROUTINE INSPECTION WORK.

Details of the inspection work carried out by your Sanitary Inspector during the year are given in the following table:—

Type of Premises inspected	No. of Inspections
Water, Drainage and Sanitary Services	348
Refuse	174
Rodent Control	148
Repairs to Premises	448
Food Shops and Food Preparing Premises	228
Infectious Disease	43
Cowsheds and Dairies	143
Factories and Shops	122
Miscellaneous	219
TOTAL	1,873

Total number of houses visited under Public Health Acts 693

Total number of houses visited under Housing Acts ... 369

NOTICES SERVED DURING THE YEAR.

Form of Notice	No. Served	Premises	Defects
Informal :			
(a) General Sanitary Defects	92	128	186
Statutory :			
(a) Defects	17	22	38

Through the service of informal and statutory notices a total of 224 improvements to dwelling houses and other premises were effected during the year.

